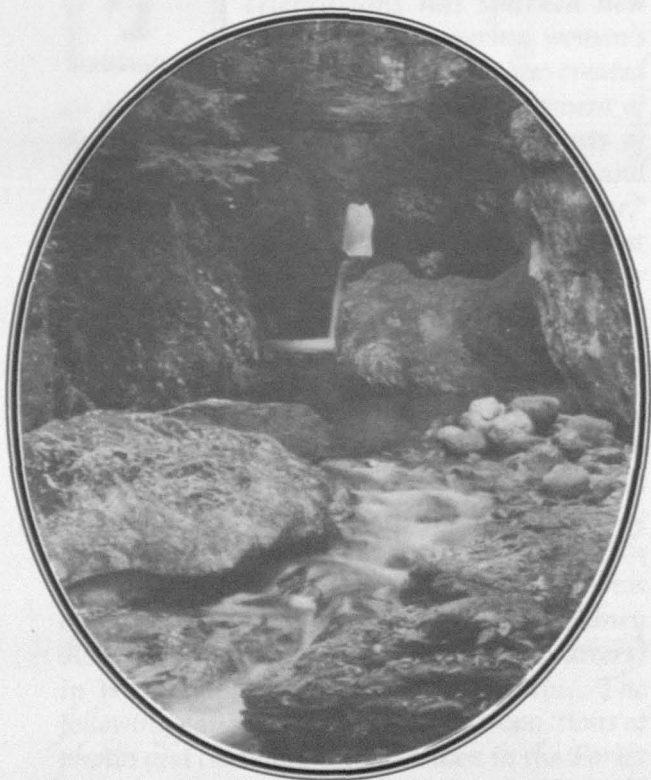
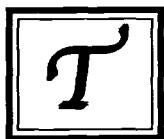

Women in the Forest Service



Who Have Made a Notable Contribution

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service





he popularity of women's history celebrations has sparked new interest in uncovering women's forgotten heritage. It also created an excellent opportunity for the Department of Agriculture to highlight the achievements of women throughout history. Many States and cities have instituted a "Women's Hall of Fame," or have published biographical materials about prominent women in the history of their particular locale. The response was a success.

The Forest Service took steps to support "Women in Agriculture" by establishing an observance to highlight the contributions of women Servicewide who have made notable accomplishment in various disciplines where they traditionally have not been recognized. An exhibit depicting the contributions and photos of these women was on display in the Sidney R. Yates Building (Forest Service headquarters) in Washington, DC, for several months. The following panels contain the first submissions of photos and contributions of women in the Forest Service. This worthwhile venture is ongoing. These, along with other outstanding contributions, will be presented through a historical book of memoirs of women in the Forest Service.



Edith R. Mosher—

Founder of Environmental Education
in the Forest Service

Edith entered the Forest Service in 1902. In 1909, she published two books on tree studies. Edith published the "Forest Study in the Primary Grades," which was accompanied by five nature study drawing books. In 1954, she was recognized by the Director of Conservation, Michigan State University, for her work in conservation education. There is a bust of Edith in the Smithsonian Institute in the "Typical American" group.

Hallie M. Daggett—

The First Woman Forest
Service Fire Lookout

In 1913, Hallie became one of the first women hired by the Forest Service as a lookout. For her assignment on the Klamath National Forest in California, she earned \$840 per year. She was familiar with the forest and promised to stay on the job until she was no longer needed. Hallie stayed on the job for 15 years, giving of herself and her skills as an excellent rifle marksman, rider, and trapper.





Margaret March-Mount—

Perhaps the most famous Forest Service conservation educator of the early 20th century

She began in 1913 on the Bighorn National Forest and soon after moved to the Shoshone National Forest, where, apart from her regular job, she did publicity for the Cody Club (a private society to revive the history of Buffalo Bill).

An article in the 1942 Washington Post credits Miss March-Mount with motivating the national Daughters of America to promote the planting of 5 million seedlings in 36 States and the District of Columbia.

Thelma Strong—

Deputy Area Budget Coordinator,
Office of Finance



Thelma established a process of review for the Office of Finance to increase efficiencies in operating numerous large external contracts and increased financial accountability for the Forest Service. She also established strategy to improve relationships between the Forest Service and Members of Congress.



Eleanor S. "Ellie" Towns—

Regional Forester,
Southwestern Region

Among Ellie's many contributions to the Forest Service is her excellent collaborative skills that have been instrumental in opening lines of communication between stakeholders in the Southwest Region and the Forest

Service. She joined the Forest Service in 1978 as Director of Lands, Soils, Water, and Minerals for the Rocky Mountain Region and later moved to the Washington Office as the Director of Lands. Ellie has also served as the Designated Federal Official to the Congressional Water Rights Task Force.

Elizabeth Estill—

Regional Forester,
Southern Region



She was the first female Regional Forester in the history of the agency. Elizabeth's background in zoology, ecology, and geographic information systems, and years of coordinating public involvement have contributed to the success of the Forest Service. In all of her positions, she has called for an integration of disciplines to enhance the agency's ecosystem management framework.



Ruth McWilliams—

National Sustainable Development
Coordinator for Cooperative
Forestry Staff

Among Ruth's contributions to the Forest Service are her efforts to advance sustainable forest management in the United States through the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests and her assistance in developing the Interim Strategic Public Outreach Plan released in October 1999. In her position as Assistant Director of Cooperative Forestry in 1991, Ruth coordinated the work of a National Rural Development Task Force and helped develop a long-term corporate strategy titled "Working Together for Rural America."

Jackie Bennett—

Staff Assistant,
Office of the Chief



Jackie has contributed in a number of ways to the efficient operation of the Office of the Chief. She reviews and tracks incoming correspondence, assists in maintaining calendars for three individuals, and assists in maintaining a variety of accounting and budget documents. Jackie lends support to each member of the Chief's Staff, while completing her own assignments.



Cecilia W. Johnson—


Project Leader
Wildland Fire Chemical System Group
Missoula Technology and Development
Center (MTDC)

Cecilia developed this program, which provides technical support to Aviation and Fire Management on matters related to fire chemicals, maintains a Qualified Products List (QPL) of chemicals that meet the Forest Service requirements, and monitors chemicals purchased under the contract through a Lot Acceptance and Quality Assurance Program (LAQA), thus providing the safety of firefighting personnel, the general public, and the environment. This program is known throughout the international firefighting community, in that many countries use the Forest Service QPL list to purchase approved chemical products for firefighting activities. Cecilia has developed information packets available to fire suppression personnel through national, regional, and local training classes and workshops; developed application guides; and participated on many advisory boards. She has also been involved in the International Foam Specification process.

Margarita Phillips— Smokejumper

Margarita has been a firefighter for 22 years. Twelve of those years have been as a smokejumper in Missoula, Montana. She is also a squad leader, a rookie physical trainer, and an Outreach Recruitment Coordinator for firefighters from entry level to Type I.





If you would like to be a part of Forest Service history, please send your photo and contributions to:

WO Civil Rights Staff
ATTN: Federal Women's Program Manager
USDA Forest Service
201 14th Street SW – 4SE
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202-205-0498
Fax: 202-690-1025
Federal Women's Program
<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/cr/sepm/fwp>

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